

D's Notes

There is some information, several meetings and dates I will present in this article.

Something new this year, Dicamba Training Required for 2018.

As we embark on the 2018 growing season, producers should be aware that dicamba herbicides Engenia, FeXapan, and XtendiMax are classified as Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs). In order to be able to purchase these herbicides, you must possess either a **private applicator license** or a **1A (Agriculture Plant) commercial applicator license**.

In addition, these products have additional label restrictions when applying. An applicator must attend specific auxin inhibitor (dicamba) training in order to apply these products in the field for 2018. In Kansas, these trainings will be sponsored by K-State Research and Extension, as well as industry representatives from BASF, Dow/Dupont and Monsanto. It will be the responsibility of the applicators to obtain this training before the application of these herbicides.

The purpose of these trainings is to cover the label changes in detail and provide information on what you as an applicator need to do to meet these requirements. The labels for these herbicides now include mandatory record keeping requirements, a reduced maximum wind speed (from 15 miles per hour down to 10 miles per hour), limited times of day applications can be made (between sunrise and sunset), revised list on sensitive crops and sensitive sites, and revise tank-clean out requirements.

Right now on Monday, March 5, there are two trainings in our area. One starting at 10:00 am in Dodge City and another in Kinsley starting at 2:00 pm. More information on the meetings will be available on our website at www.hodgeman.k-state.edu/.

Walk Kansas is starting again on March 18th. Online registration will begin after Sunday, February 18, 2018. Gather five friends and start your journey toward a healthier life! Challenge other friends to join.

Other meetings!

On Wednesday, February 21, the Forage Conference will be held in Garden City. Topics include: forage sorghum, triticale forage production, getting the most out of your silage, silage safety, and more. To register online check www.hodgeman.k-state.edu/.

On Wednesday, February 28, in Dodge City, there will be a Farm Bill meeting. The new 2018 Farm Bill is coming together, and experts are beginning to see the form it will take. Meeting topics include the economic conditions of farmers and Title I programs with Dr. Mykel Taylor, proposed crop insurance changes with Dr. Art Barnaby, and conservation programs impact with Dr. Brad Lubben. The series will enable producers from Kansas and Nebraska to engage presenters with their own thoughts and concerns on possible changes in the new bill, and use the dialogue to further understand issues facing the agricultural community within the new Farm Bill's framework.

Thursday, March 1, brings us an Agronomy School in Cimarron. Registration begins at 9 am.

Another meeting of interest to Cattlemen will take place on Friday, March 2. Cattleman's Day will be held in Manhattan.

For more information on these meetings go to the Hodgeman County Extension website at www.hodgeman.k-state.edu/.